

✓
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3-6 and add new claims 7-9 as follows.

Sub E1
called 7.
D2
--7. (new) A method of operating a call processing system to handle a call placed to a called number from a caller having a caller number, the method comprising:

receiving call set-up signaling for the call;

prior to service discrimination, processing the called number from the call set-up signaling to determine if the caller number should be checked in a validation table to determine if the call should be allowed;

if the caller number should be checked in the validation table, then checking the caller number in the validation table to determine if the call should be allowed;

if the call should be allowed based on the validation table, then processing the called number to select a route for the call;

if the caller number should not be checked in the validation table, then processing the called number to select the route for the call without checking the caller number in the validation table;

after selecting the route for the call, generating and transferring a message indicating the route selected for the call.

Sub F1
8. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the call set-up signaling comprises an initial address message.

9. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the called number comprises a toll-free number.